

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

STAY AT HOME

6 Bay Area counties order nearly 7 million people to shelter in place



By Erin Allday

Six Bay Area counties announced “shelter in place” orders for all residents on Monday — the strictest measure of its kind yet in the continental United States — directing everyone to stay inside their homes and away from others as much as possible for the next three weeks in a desperate move to curb the rapid spread of coronavirus across the region.

The directive was set to begin at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday and involves San Francisco, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Marin, Contra Costa and Alameda counties — a combined population of more than 6.7 million. It is to stay in place until at least April 7. The three other Bay Area counties — Sonoma, Solano and Napa — did not issue similar mandates.

Just outside the Bay Area, Santa Cruz County late Monday also announced a “shelter in place” order for its 275,000 residents.

The orders — which are all similarly worded — fall just short of a full lockdown, which would forbid people from leaving their homes without explicit permission. The orders (read San Francisco’s here in its entirety at tinyurl.com/waddyqv) call for county and city sheriffs and police chiefs to “ensure compliance,” and local authorities said they would not “rush to enforce” the directives as residents adjusted to understand what activities are no longer allowed. Violation of the orders is considered a misdemeanor punishable by a fine or jail time.

Businesses that do not provide “essential” services must send workers home. Among those remaining open are grocery stores, pharmacies, restaurants for delivery only and hardware stores. Most workers are ordered to stay home, with

Gabrielle Lurie / The Chronicle

Kathryn Sandretto, manager of Acote, closes the clothing store after learning that all non-essential businesses must close.

White House issues tougher guidelines

By Jonathan Lemire, Andrew Taylor and Jill Colvin

WASHINGTON — The White House on Monday urged all older Americans to stay home and everyone to avoid crowds and eating out at restaurants as part of sweeping guidelines meant to combat an expected surge of coronavirus cases.

President Trump, in a

marked shift in tone about a crisis that has enveloped the globe, for the first time acknowledged that the pandemic may send the U.S. economy into a recession and suggested that the nation may be dealing with the virus until “July or August.”

With the U.S. economy shuddering to a near-halt, the Dow Jones Industrial Average plummeted nearly 3,000 points, or

White House continues on A11



Michael Short / Special to The Chronicle

Dr. Grant Colfax, Public Health director, and Mayor London Breed announce San Francisco's shelter-in-place order.

Teachers, parents struggle to keep students learning

By Jill Tucker

Bay Area teachers were scrambling Monday to provide distance learning for 1 million students who were home due to the coronavirus shutdown, and confusion over state policies added to the uncertainty.

It’s unclear whether teachers — who are in most cases continuing to work from home — can require students to learn new material, turn in assignments and get graded on them.

State law considers independent study “voluntary.”

And education officials question whether continuing with instruction would leave struggling students behind — children who are already dis-



Gabrielle Lurie / The Chronicle

Catherine Alexander reads bags of food for pickup at King Middle in Berkeley.

advantaged and often lacking computers, internet access or other resources at home.

State officials did not respond to requests for clarification.

Schools continues on A11

Get live updates and more online

Get the latest news about the COVID-19 pandemic, including The Chronicle’s guide explaining what you need to know about it, at sfchronicle.com, and track the spread of the virus at sfchronicle.com/coronavirus-map

Biggest Dow plunge in three decades

Fear of global implications of the coronavirus sends stocks down 2,997 points or 12.9%. **B5**

Restrictions across Europe expanding

Spain becomes the fourth-most affected country in the world, and joins Italy and Germany in closing its borders. **A5**

Clip and save: What you need to know

A three-page resource to help you navigate life in the Bay Area during the lockdown. **A6-8**

BAY AREA, B1

There’s plenty of food: East Bay grocers are well stocked and will remain open during the lockdown.

SPORTING GREEN, C1

The long wait: With Major League Baseball apparently planning no games before mid-May, Giants players are being told to go home from training camp.

DATEBOOK, C5

Canceled: For holders of tickets to the performance that must not go on, here’s what to do now.

Chronicle to keep bringing you news

To our readers:

The San Francisco Chronicle started publishing during the Civil War and hasn’t stopped since — not when an earthquake leveled parts of the region, not when floods overtook it, not when wildfires burned parts of it.

We haven’t missed an issue in 155 years, and we will not during the ongoing health crisis. During the ongoing shelter-in-place order, media like The Chronicle have permission to continue operations in order to ensure access to reliable and accurate information.

Starting today you will notice some changes to the newspaper. We’ve combined sections and expanded others. We’re focused on answering the myriad questions we all have. How this crisis will unfold is uncertain, but delivery of your newspaper and online news at sfchronicle.com is not.

We are taking considerable precautions at our production facilities, including staggering shifts and thoroughly cleaning equipment. We are also taking steps to keep the men and women who deliver your newspaper safe and healthy. They have our deep and sincere appreciation.

The health of our community and your access to critical information are our top priorities. To that end, if you haven’t already, please activate your digital subscription at sfchronicle.com/activate. You can sign up for emails that will keep you informed of the latest news. This is critical in the event that some unforeseen issue prevents us from getting the newspaper to you.

Thank you for relying on us during this time. If you have any issues, please reach out to our customer service team at sfchronicle.com/customer-service.

Bill Nagel
Publisher, San Francisco Chronicle

Newsom seeks \$1.1 billion to cope with costs of crisis

By Alexei Koseff

SACRAMENTO — California lawmakers set aside up to \$1.1 billion Monday for health care needs, homelessness services and school cleaning to help the state deal with crushing costs being brought on by the coronavirus crisis.

The two-bill package passed both houses of the Legislature unanimously only a few hours

“This budget has now been taken over by the coronavirus.”

Assemblyman Phil Ting, D-S.F.

after it was introduced, a reflection of how pressing both Democrats and Republicans have come to see the situation. Gov. Gavin Newsom made an emergency request for the money, allowing lawmakers to waive a requirement that the measures be in print for at least 72 hours before they could be taken up for a vote.

“By taking this action, we are

Costs continues on A10



Weather
Passing showers.
Highs: 52-59.
Lows: 36-45. **B8**



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